Requirements of Wheat under welfare Scheme

†63. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 12 million tonnes of wheat is needed annually to meet the requirements.of public distribution system as well as other public welfare schemes in the country;

(b) if not, the amount of wheat required therefor;

(c) the total amount of wheat procured by Government from farmers during wheat procurement period for the year 2007; and

(d) the total buffer stock of wheat in Government godowns as on April, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) During 2007-08. for BPL and AAY categories of TPDS ration card holding families, the requirement of wheat is estimated to be 85 lakh tons. For the APL category, it is estimated to be 45 lakh tons. Thus for TPDS, wheat requirement is likely to be 130 lakh tons. For various welfare schemes, requirement of wheat is estimated to be 10 lakh tons.

(c)A quantity of 111.04 lakh tons of wheat has been procured during the current year (upto 30.7.2007) at Minimum Support Price (MSP).

(d) The stock position of wheat in Central Pool as on 1st April; 2007 was 47.0 lakh' tons.

Sugarcane dues on Sugar Mills

64. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount of sugarcane dues outstanding against sugar mills in various States particularly Uttar Pradesh as on date alongwith the dues outstanding at the end of December, 2006, State-wise;

(b) the main reasons for the outstanding arrears; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to ensure clearance of these dues at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Statement showing State-wise cane price arrears as on 31.12.2006 and 15.06.2007 is is enclosed *(See* below).

(b) The main reason for the outstanding cane price arrears is high level of sugarcane and sugar production in the country during the current 2006-07 sugar season and anticipated higher production in the ensuing 2007-08 sugar seasons.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi